

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 07644 090922Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 EB-08 /069 W

-----026618 090926Z /21

O P 090843Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6299

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7644

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, JA

SUBJECT: ROK-JAPAN MINISTERIAL MEETING

REF: SEOUL 7597 (080839Z SEP 77)

SUMMARY: ROK DELEGATION TO ROK-JAPAN MINISTERIAL MEETING WAS PLEASED WITH RESULTS ACHIEVED IN TOKYO. JAPANESE, LED BY PRIMIN FUKUDA, APPEAR TO HAVE MADE UP IN ATMOSPHERICS WHAT CONFERENCE LACKED IN SUBSTANTIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN COVERSAATION WITH AMBASSADOR SEPT 8, MOFA ASST. MINISTER FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS YI MUN-YONG, WHO WAS MEMBER OF ROK DELEGATION, TOLD AMBASSADOR JAPANESE WENT TO GREAT LENGTHS TO CREATE CORDIAL ATMOSHPERE FOR MINISTERIAL MEETING AND IN PROCESS MADE CONSIDERABLE IMPRESSION ON ROK DELEGATION. HE SAID THAT IN PARTICULAR CON-  
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VERSION WITH PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA WAS VERY WARM AND RELEAXED. HE SAID FONMIN HATOYAMA WAS VERY CONSIDERATE AND POLITE. ACCORDING TO YI, JAPANESE ATTENTION TO DETAILS OF CONFERENCE ATMOSPHERICS EXTENDED TO SPECIAL RECETIPION GIVEN TO ROK PRESS WHICH MADE A GOOD IMPRESSION AS WELL. HE SAID FORMAL SESSIONS WERE ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO BE IN KOREAN AND JAPANESE WITH SIMULTANEOUS

INTERPRETATION BUT BOTH DELEGATIONS SOON SWITCHED TO JAPANESE, LEAVING THE TWO YOUNGEST MEMBERS OF THE ROK DELEGATION, MINISTER OF FINANCE KIM YOUNG-HWAN (45) AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE CH'OE KAK-KYU (44), SOMEWHAT AWASH.

2. YI SAID KOREANS WERE PLEASED WITH COMMUNIQUE. HE SAID ROK DELEGATION FELT THEY EXTRACTED ENOUGH CONCESSIONS FROM JAPANESE. HE ADDED THAT ROKG DECIDED EARLY IN THE GAME NOT TO GO FOR ANY SPECIFIC JAPANESE COMMITMENT ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. EPB SUH ALSO NOTED SAID JAPANESE HAVE SUCH A COMPETITIVE PRICE ADVANTAGE IN TRADE THAT ROK SAW NO BENEFIT IN ATTEMPTING TO GET JAPANESE TO REDUCE THEIR EXPORTS TO ROK. HE SAID ROK DELEGATION WAS ABLE TO EXTRACT SOME CONCESSIONS FROM THE JAPANESE ON SILK, BUT DID NOT SPELL THESE OUT. ROK'S WILL PRESS FOR FURTHER ACCESS TO JAPANESE MARKETS.

3. ON THE POLITICAL SIDE, YI SAID HATOYAMA GAVE THE ROKS PRIVATE ASSURANCES THAT JAPANESE WOULD NOT MAKE OVERTURES TO NORTH KOREANS IN OFFICIAL CHANNELS WITHOUT FIRST TALKING TO ROK. REFERENCE TO THESE ASSURANCES HAVE NOW APPEARED IN ROK PRESS. PRINCIPAL POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF MEETING, HOWEVER, WAS DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT ACCORDED TO KOREANS BY JAPANESE RATHER THAN ANY SUBSTANTIVE CONCESSIONS.  
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4. COMMENT: ON BALANCE, JAPANESE APPEARED TO HAVE MANAGED THE MINISTERIAL MEETINGS WITH GREAT DEXTERITY. BY SHOWING APPROPRIATE CONCERN FOR THE ATMOSPHERICS OF THE CONFERENCE THEY WERE ABLE TO CONCILIATE THE KOREANS AND AVOID MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE CONCESSIONS. PRIME FUKUDA WAS CLEARLY, IN VIEW OF ROK DELEGATION, THE PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT AND PRACTITIONER OF THIS VELVET GLOVE APPROACH AND HIS REPUTATION WILL PROBABLY BE ENHANCED AS A CONSEQUENCE, TO THE ULTIMATE BENEFIT OF CLOSER RELATIONS BETWEEN ROK AND JAPAN.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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